THE BLOOD OF KINGS
A NEW INTERPRETATION OF MAYA ART

October 31, 1986

ART HISTORIAN MARY MILLER DESCRIBES COURT LIFE AND RITUALS OF ANCIENT MAYA IN LECTURE NOVEMBER 12

In 1946 archaeologists discovered at an ancient Maya site known as Bonampak, hidden in the jungles of southern Mexico, a building with beautifully painted scenes of Maya court life and ritual--the most important examples of Maya wall painting that have yet been found. Mary Miller, associate professor of the history of art at Yale University, will discuss the events in these paintings, which depict the festivities, battles, and other rituals which accompanied the installation of an heir to the throne, in a free public lecture, "The Murals of Bonampak and the Rites of Maya Kingship," at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, November 12, at 5:45 pm. Dr. Miller's lecture is the third in a series of lectures presented in conjunction with an exhibition which she helped to organize, The Blood of Kings: A New Interpretation of Maya Art, on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art through December 14.

The murals of Bonampak, which were painted at the end of the eighth century, document a way of life that was on the verge of collapse. They picture individuals of various rank, from lords and ladies to musicians and servants who attended at court, and provide valuable information about Maya fabrics and costumes, of which only a few fragments have survived.

Mary Miller became interested in the Maya as an undergraduate at Princeton University. After spending a year in Mexico, she went on to take her doctorate in art history at Yale, where she has taught since 1980. She is

The Blood of Kings is an exhibition organized by the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, in association with The Cleveland Museum of Art. The Cleveland showing is sponsored by AMERITECH and OHIO BELL.

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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART 11150 East Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio 44106 216-421-7340

the author of The Murals of Bonampak, her doctoral dissertation, published by Princeton University Press in 1986, and The Art of Mesoamerica (Thames and Hudson, 1986). She is the co-author, with Linda Schele, of The Blood of Kings: Dynasty and Ritual in Maya Art, which serves as a catalogue for the exhibition, The Blood of Kings.

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